

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 30-32 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-17 and 30-32 have been rejected.

Claims 3, 11 and 31 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12-16, 30 and 32 have been amended, as set forth herein.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 30 and related dependent claims (for consistency). The amendments are supported by, inter alia, pages 5-7 of the specification and Figure 3 of the drawings. No new matter has been entered.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 9-15 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,280,511 to O'Neill (hereinafter O'Neill) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,934,049 to Kiekhafer et al. (hereinafter Kiekhafer). Claims 7-8, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neill in view of Kiekhafer. in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,417,208 to Winkler (hereinafter Winkler). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success.

Finally, the applied reference(s) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* MPEP § 2143.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references do not satisfy these requirements. Amended Claim 1 recites:

a lead body having an insulator and multiple conductors, wherein the insulator includes a respective welding region for each of said multiple conductors formed by the removal of at least a portion of the insulator, each welding region formed to expose at least a portion of a respective conductor, wherein each welding region is formed obliquely across said lead body and parallel to the respective conductor;

a respective conductive pad within each welding region, each conductive pad electrically connected to the respective conductor; and

a respective band welded to each conductive pad at the welding region to electrically contact the band to the respective conductor.

Amended Claim 9 recites:

a lead body having an insulator and multiple conductors, wherein the insulator includes a respective welding region for each of said multiple conductors formed by the removal of at least a portion of the insulator, each welding region formed to expose at least a portion of a respective conductor, wherein each welding region is formed obliquely across said lead body and parallel to a respective conductor;

a respective elongated conductive element, for each welding region, having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal end electrically connected to the conductor within the corresponding welding region; and

a respective band welded to the distal end of each elongated conductive element to electrically connect the band to the respective conductor, the band welded to the distal end of the elongated conductive element outside of the welding region.

Claim 30 recites:

a lead body having an insulator and multiple conductors, wherein the

insulator includes a respective welding region, for each of said multiple conductors, defined by a groove formed in the insulator to expose at least a portion of a corresponding conductor, wherein each welding region is formed obliquely across said lead body and parallel to the respective conductor;
a respective conductive pad within each welding region, the conductive pad electrically connected to the respective conductor; and
a respective band welded to each conductive pad at the welding region to electrically connected the band to the respective conductor.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied references (either alone or in combination) do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent Claims 1, 9, and 30, as amended. In regard to O'Neill, the disclosure merely states that a slit or hole is made in insulation of the coiled conductor. *See* col. 3, lines 41-47 of O'Neill. However, O'Neill is completely silent in regard to how the slit or hole is oriented relative to the lead body or to the conductor. There is simply no basis in O'Neill to suggest that the slit or hole should be made obliquely relative to the lead body and parallel to the respective conductor. Moreover, it appears that the lead body of O'Neill merely includes a single conductor. *See* FIGURE 3 of O'Neill. Applicant further submits that the orientation of the welding regions is not merely a "routine design choice" without any criticality. Specifically, by using an orientation that is oblique to the lead body and parallel to the respective conductors, the mechanical and electrical connection between the band and the respective conductor can be enhanced. Specifically, the contact surface area between the conductors and the pads can be optimized thereby facilitating the mechanical and electrical connections associated with the various conductive elements.

Kiekhafer is directed to a fundamentally different type of device. Specifically, Kiekhafer discloses forming an electrode by bonding two separate coils. *See* col. 2, lines 36-41. Kiekhafer

merely discloses that it is possible to bond the two coils using “swaging, crimping, or welding.” Kiekhafer does not teach or suggest forming welding regions having the orientation recited in Claims 1, 9, and 30.

Winkler merely discloses a slit in the lead body that is perpendicular to the lead body. *See* FIGURES 4A-4D of Winkler. Thus, Winkler does not teach or suggest a welding region that is oblique relative to the lead body and parallel to the respective conductor. Additionally, as discussed in greater detail in previous responses, Winkler does not teach or suggest a band welded to the conductive pad at the welding region. In regard to Claim 9, Applicant further submits that Winkler does not teach or suggest an “elongated conductive element” as claimed, because the band of Winkler is circular and does not, by definition, have a proximal and distal ends.

Therefore, the applied references (either alone or in combination) do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the Claims 1, 9 and 30 of the application. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for these claims. All other claims depend from independent Claims 1, 9 and 30 and, hence, inherit the limitations of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable over the applied references.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-11, 12-17, 30 and 32.

II. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.


If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *rmccutcheon@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

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Robert D. McCutcheon
Registration No. 38,717

P.O. Box 802432
Dallas, Texas 75380
(972) 628-3632 (direct dial)
(972) 628-3600 (main number)
(972) 628-3616 (fax)
E-mail: *rmccutcheon@davismunck.com*